

Agenda Date: 2/22/06 Agenda Item: III B

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 www.bpu.state.ni.us

**CABLE TELEVISION** 

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF COMCAST OF MONMOUTH COUNTY, LLC FOR A RENEWAL CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL TO CONTINUE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM IN AND FOR THE VILLAGE OF LOCH ARBOUR, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE	) ) )	RENEWAL  CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL
OF NEW JERSEY	)	DOCKET NO. CE05100864

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

## BY THE BOARD:

On November 7, 1983, the Board granted Futurevision Cable Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a Storer Cable Communications ("Storer") a Certificate of Approval, in Docket No. 805C-6681, for the construction, operation and maintenance of a cable television system in the Village of Loch Arbour ("Village"). Through a series of transfers with required Board approvals, Comcast Cablevision of Monmouth County, Inc. ("Comcast") became the holder of the Certificate. On August 21, 1995, the Board issued a Renewal Certificate of Approval to Comcast in Docket No CE95030117. Through a series of subsequent transfers, with the required Board approvals, the current holder of the Certificate is Comcast of Monmouth County, LLC ("Petitioner"). Although by its terms the Petitioner's above referenced Certificate expired on August 15, 2005, the Petitioner is authorized to continue to provide cable television service to the Village pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-25, pending disposition of proceedings regarding the renewal of its Certificate of Approval.

The Petitioner filed an application for the renewal of its municipal consent with the Village on November 15, 2004, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-23 and N.J.A.C. 14:18-13. The Village, after public hearing, adopted a municipal ordinance granting renewal consent to the Petitioner on August 3, 2005. On August 25, 2005, the Petitioner formally accepted the terms and conditions of the ordinance in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:5A-24.

On October 12, 2005, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-16, the Petitioner filed with the Board for a renewal of its Certificate of Approval for the Village. The Board has reviewed the application for municipal consent, the petition for a Renewal Certificate of Approval and the municipal consent ordinance. Based upon this review and the recommendation of the Office of Cable Television, the Board **HEREBY FINDS** the following:

- The Petitioner possesses the requisite legal, character, financial and technical qualifications for the awarding of a Renewal Certificate of Approval. Further, the Village reviewed these qualifications in conjunction with the municipal consent process.
- 2. The design and technical specifications of the system will ensure that the Petitioner provides safe, adequate and proper service.
- 3. The Petitioner has represented that all previously required construction within the franchise territory is complete.
- The franchise period as stated in the ordinance is 15 years. The Board finds this period to be of reasonable duration.
- 5. The Village may review the performance of the Petitioner with regard to the ordinance at its discretion. If the Village determines that the Petitioner has failed to substantially comply with the material terms and conditions of the ordinance, the Village shall provide written notice to the Petitioner of such alleged instances of non-compliance and shall grant the Petitioner 90 days to cure such deficiency. The Village may petition the Board for appropriate administrative action, including revocation of the franchise or reduction of the franchise term, only after the 90-day opportunity to cure has passed and the deficiency has not been cured.
- 6. The Petitioner's rates shall be regulated and tariffs shall be filed for all services, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission, the Board and the Office of Cable Television. The Petitioner shall maintain informational tariffs for unregulated service rates and promptly file any revisions thereto.
- 7. Pursuant to statutory requirements, the ordinance specifies a complaint officer to receive and act upon complaints filed by subscribers in the Village. In this case, it is the Office of Cable Television. All complaints shall be received and processed in accordance with the applicable rules.
- 8. The Petitioner shall maintain a local business office or agent for the purpose of receiving, investigating and resolving complaints. Currently, the local office serving this provision is located at 403 South Street in the Borough of Eatontown.
- 9. The franchise fee to be paid to the Village is specified to be 2% of the Petitioner's gross revenues from all recurring charges in the nature of subscription fees paid by subscribers for its cable television reception service in the Village. Additional regulatory fees shall be paid to the State in an amount not to exceed 2% of Petitioner's gross operating revenues derived from intrastate operations. The Board finds these fees to be reasonable.

10. The Petitioner shall provide service along any public right-of-way to any person's residence or business located in all areas of the franchise territory at tariffed rates for standard and non-standard installation.

The Petitioner shall provide public, educational and governmental ("PEG") access channels and facilities in accordance with its renewal application and the ordinance. Specifically, the Petitioner shall continue to provide access time to non-commercial public, educational and governmental entities on a channel maintained by the Petitioner for the purpose of cablecasting commercial and non-commercial PEG access programming in accordance with the Petitioner's guidelines.

- Within 12 months of the date of this Certificate, the Petitioner shall pay to the
  - Village a one-time capital contribution in the amount of \$10,000.00 for technology support. Upon satisfaction of this obligation, the Petitioner shall submit proof of compliance to the Office of Cable Television.
- The Petitioner shall provide or continue to provide the standard installation and monthly basic service, free of charge, to the municipal building, Village Beach Pavilion and any other municipal facility that may be constructed within the Village, provided that the facility is located within 200 feet of active cable distribution plant.
- Upon reasonable written request of the Village, the Petitioner shall appear at a public hearing of the governing body or before the Village's cable television advisory committee, at least once annually, to review all matters pertaining to the provision of cable service to the residents of the Village and other related issues.
- 15. In the event of a change in law governing provision of special subscriber rates for senior citizens, the Petitioner shall meet with the Village to discuss implementation of such rates.

Based upon these findings, the Board <u>HEREBY CONCLUDES</u>, pursuant to <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:5A-17(a) and 28(c), the Petitioner has the municipal consent necessary to support the petition, that such consent and issuance thereof are in conformity with the requirements of <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:5A-1 <u>et seq.</u>, that the Petitioner has complied or is ready, willing and able to comply with all applicable rules and regulations imposed by or pursuant to State or federal law as preconditions for engaging in the proposed cable television operations, that the Petitioner has sufficient financial and technical capacity, meets the legal, character and other qualifications necessary to construct, maintain and operate the necessary installations, lines and equipment, and is capable of providing the proposed service in a safe, adequate and proper manner.

Therefore, the Petitioner is <u>HEREBY ISSUED</u> this Renewal Certificate of Approval as evidence of Petitioner's authority to construct and operate a cable television system within the entirety of the Village.

This Renewal Certificate is subject to all applicable State and federal laws, the rules and regulations of the Office of Cable Television, and any such lawful terms, conditions and limitations as currently exist or may hereafter be attached to the exercise of the privileges granted herein. The Petitioner shall adhere to the standards set forth by the Federal Communications Commission's rules and regulations, 47 <u>C.F.R.</u> §76.1 <u>et seq.</u>, including but not limited to, the technical standards 47 <u>C.F.R.</u> §76.601 through §76.630. Any modifications to the provisions thereof shall be incorporated into this Certificate.

Failure to comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations and orders of the Board or Office of Cable Television and/or the terms, conditions and limitations set forth herein may constitute sufficient grounds for the suspension or revocation of this Certificate.

This Renewal Certificate is issued on the representation that the statements contained in the Petitioner's applications are true, and the undertakings therein contained shall be adhered to and enforceable unless specific waiver is granted by the Office of Cable Television pursuant to the authority contained in N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq.

JEANNE M. FOX PRESIDENT

This Certificate shall expire on August 15, 2020.

DATED: 2/24/06

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

BY:

FREDERICK F. BUTLER

COMMISSIONER

CONNIE O. HUGHES COMMISSIONER

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO

COMMISSIONER

CHRISTINE V. BATOR COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public

Utilities

## **SERVICE LIST**

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